

9 authorizing playback of the first digital audio content with the first set of playback
10 devices.

1 2. (Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 storing the first license in second digital audio content; and
3 authorizing playback of the second digital audio content with the first set of
4 playback devices.

1 3. (Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 creating a second license having a second cardinality, the license created by the
3 license management device;
4 storing the second license in a second set of playback devices, wherein the second
5 set of playback devices is determined based, at least in part, on the second cardinality, and
6 further wherein at least one playback device belongs to the first set and to the second set;
7 storing the second license in second digital audio content;
8 authorizing playback of the second digital audio content with the second set of
9 playback devices.

1 7. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first set of
2 playback devices comprises at least one [is a] hardware playback device.

1 8. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first set of
2 playback devices comprises at least one [is a] software player.

(Please cancel claim 9 without prejudice.)

1 10. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the first digital audio content
2 further comprises [is audio/visual] video digital programming.

1 11. (Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon sequences

2 of instructions that when executed by one or more processors cause [the] one or more
3 electronic systems [processors] to:

4 create a first license with a license management device, the first license having a
5 first cardinality;

6 store the first license in a first set of playback devices in response to a command
7 from the license management device, wherein the first set of playback devices is
8 determined based, at least in part, on the first cardinality;

9 store the first license in first digital audio content; and

10 authorize playback of the first digital audio content with the first set of playback
11 devices.

1 12. (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 11 further comprising

2 sequences of instructions that when executed cause the one or more electronic systems
3 [processors] to:

4 store the first license in second digital audio content; and

(Please cancel claim 19 without prejudice.)

1 20. (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the first
2 digital audio content further comprises [is audio/visual] digital video programming.

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1 21. (Amended) An apparatus for digital license management, the apparatus
2 comprising:
3 means for creating a first license in a license management device, the first license
4 having a first cardinality;
5 means for storing the first license in a first set of playback devices in response to a
6 command from the license management device;
7 means for storing the first license in first digital audio content; and
8 means for authorizing playback of the first digital audio content with the first set
9 of playback devices.

1 22. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising:
2 means for storing the first license in second digital audio content; and
3 means for authorizing playback of the second digital audio content with the first
4 set of playback devices.

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1 23. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising:
2 means for creating a second license in the license management device;

3 means for storing the second license in a second set of playback devices, wherein
4 at least one playback device from the second set of playback devices is included in the
5 first set of playback devices;
6 means for storing the second license in ~~second digital audio~~ content; and
7 means for authorizing playback of the ~~second digital audio~~ content with the
8 second set of playback devices.

(Please add the following new claims:)

1 24. (New) A digital data signal embodied in a data communications medium
2 shared among a plurality of network devices to provide digital audio programming, the
3 digital data signal comprising license having a first cardinality, the license having been
4 created by a license management device, the digital data signal further comprising a first
5 digital audio content that is at least a subset of the digital audio programming, wherein a
6 set of playback devices receive the digital data signal and authorize playback of the first
7 digital audio signal if the license included in the computer data signal matches at least
8 one license stored in the respective playback devices.

1 25. (New) The digital data signal of claim 24 wherein the cardinality is fixed.

1 26. (New) The digital data signal of claim 24 wherein the cardinality is
2 variable.